

# NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL

*An Editorial on the Current Event of YOUR Choice*




---

*Due Date: April 15<sup>th</sup>*

*20% of Unit Mark*

---

This assignment is an opportunity to write about a **current local** or **world issue** in the format of a **newspaper editorial (500-600 words)**. Using **reputable news sources** you will be tasked with **identifying** and **detailing a contemporary local or world issue**, offering your **informed** and **researched opinion** on the matter, and considering what **routes** for **resolution** or **further questioning** would be constructive to making gains on this matter.

A reputable news source in this instance is one that reports on stories **objectively**, with little to no personal commentary or discernable bias. While you will be drawing from **objective news sources**, this editorial is a reflection of a world issue through **your perspective**, so it will necessarily **include informed personal commentary**. Beware of your own **personal biases** towards the subject and try and **offer an educated and fair representation** of the issue regardless of which side you argue for. You are expected to **meaningfully engage with your issue** by asking questions regarding analysis, synthesis and evaluation, ignoring simple ideas of right and wrong, and in many ways **becoming an authority on the topic**. Keep your purpose for writing and audience in mind, as always.

Include a **bibliography** of all the resources consulted and referenced in your editorial. When referencing or citing any source make sure to follow **MLA style guidelines**, which we will speak more about in class. **Choose a local or world issue** that you personally find thought provoking or important, a topic you are truly passionate about, and aim to astound in your writing. ■

## EXAMPLES OF REPUTABLE NEWS SOURCES:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Atlantic</i>: <a href="http://www.theatlantic.com/">http://www.theatlantic.com/</a></li> <li>• <i>BBC</i>: <a href="http://www.bbc.com/">http://www.bbc.com/</a></li> <li>• <i>CBC</i>: <a href="http://www.cbc.ca/news">http://www.cbc.ca/news</a></li> <li>• <i>The Globe and Mail</i>:<br/><a href="http://www.theglobeandmail.com/">http://www.theglobeandmail.com/</a></li> <li>• <i>The Guardian</i>:<br/><a href="http://www.theguardian.com/uk">http://www.theguardian.com/uk</a></li> <li>• <i>National Post</i>:<br/><a href="http://www.nationalpost.com/index.html">http://www.nationalpost.com/index.html</a></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>New York Times</i>: <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/">http://www.nytimes.com/</a></li> <li>• <i>National Public Radio</i>: <a href="http://www.npr.org/">http://www.npr.org/</a></li> <li>• <i>The Province</i>:<br/><a href="http://www.theprovince.com/index.html">http://www.theprovince.com/index.html</a></li> <li>• <i>TED</i>: <a href="http://www.ted.com/">http://www.ted.com/</a></li> <li>• <i>Vancouver Sun</i>:<br/><a href="http://www.vancouversun.com/index.html">http://www.vancouversun.com/index.html</a></li> <li>• <i>The Washington Post</i>:<br/><a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/">http://www.washingtonpost.com/</a></li> </ul> |
|---|--|



## NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

### Formatting Your Editorial

---

In the header of the first page list your **full name, student number and class block**. Use **12-point** font (either Times New Roman or Calibri) and **double-space your writing**. Assume the reader has some familiarity with your topic, but make sure to provide contextualization to the purpose of your editorial. Since this is an opinionated editorial you are allowed to use **personal pronouns (“I”)** if you desire. Ensure that your paper is a mix of **research** and your own balanced **perspective**. Aim for **at least 3 sources** to help inform your editorial. When in doubt over the reliability of any news outlet try and look for **the primary source** of the story to find the truth. You can include photos if they help contribute to your editorial, just make sure to **reference any pictures you do use**.

### Quotes

---

As a general rule, **do not begin a sentence with a quote** and do not insert a quote into your writing **without context and introduction**. We do not want to simply restate the ideas of someone else; we want to **build off them** in our own writing. Use quotes as **supporting evidence** but **do not rely on them** to do your arguing for you. Try not to **overuse quotes** in your writing **but use enough** to demonstrate you are engaging with your sources. This balance takes time!

### In-Text Citations

---

Citing can be tedious but it is a critical part of properly crediting the work of others and avoiding plagiarism. Whenever you **quote someone** or **paraphrase their ideas or writing**, you must properly reference it in the **MLA (Modern Language Association) style**. This is the format most commonly used in the humanities. Make sure that you are **consistent** throughout your entire work in using this style.

When you **reference a work for the first time** in your writing introduce **the author and text** you are referencing and include a citation in brackets at the end of the sentence and before the period:

John Wyndham writes in his novel *The Chrysalids* that “words have to be chosen, and then interpreted; but thought-shapes you feel, inside you” to demonstrate how telepathy connects David and his friends with an intimacy unknown to human kind (Wyndham, 131).

Every **subsequent time** that you reference the same source you can simply put the **author** and **page number** in brackets at the end of the sentence **without** explicitly mentioning the author or text name within the sentence:

Michael speaks to this effect when he says, “Knowing makes all the difference... It's the difference between just trying to keep alive, and having something to live for” (Wyndham, 198).


### Bibliography

---

You will need to include a **bibliography** at the **end of your editorial** of **all of the sources** that you referenced or consulted throughout your work. Bibliography entries should be properly

cited in **MLA style** and **listed alphabetically, by last name**. Each entry in your bibliography should be **“hanging”** so that every line after the first line is indented.

*This is an example of the format for citing a novel in the MLA style:*

Last Name of Author, First Name of Author, Title of Work. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of  
Publication. Medium of Work.  
 *Indent*

*This is the format used in practice:*

Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1960. Print.

Shakespeare, William. *Romeo and Juliet*. Ed. Sylvan Barnet and J. A. Bryant. New York: Signet, 1998. Print.

Wyndham, John. *The Chrysalids*. London: M. Joseph, 1955. Print.

**Every medium** has a **slightly different format** for referencing, so make sure to use the following resources to ensure you are using the **correct format** in referencing each source.

## Referencing And Citation Resources

---

### MLA STYLE GUIDES

- Purdue University MLA Guide - <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>
- UBC MLA Style Guide - <http://wiki.ubc.ca/images/f/f9/Mlastyle.pdf>

### EDITORIAL GUIDES

- *How to Differentiate Between Popular and Scholarly Sources*  
- <http://help.library.ubc.ca/evaluating-and-citing-sources/scholarly-versus-popular-sources/>
- *How to Evaluate the Validity and Credibility of Sources*  
- <http://help.library.ubc.ca/evaluating-and-citing-sources/evaluating-information-sources/>

### MLA CITATION GENERATORS

- *MLA Citation Generators Electronically Generate Your Citations\**
  1. EasyBib - <http://www.easybib.com/>
  2. Citation Builder - <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/citationbuilder/>

*\*Just make still sure to manually check that the citations that are generated are in proper MLA format (i.e. proper word order and punctuation). Even computers make mistakes.*



## Newspaper Editorial Rubric

	<b>Content</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Expression</b>	<b>Mechanics</b>
<b>6 EXCELLENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear central ideas (thesis)</li> <li>- Persuasive argument</li> <li>- Intelligent consideration and knowledge of subject with originality of thought</li> <li>- Carefully selected details which support general statements and central idea</li> <li>- Well researched topic with strong connections to primary source documents</li> <li>- Strong variety in reputable sources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Effective introduction, body, and conclusion</li> <li>- Writing flows smoothly; effective paragraphs and transitions</li> <li>- Effective plan of development using order of importance, cause and effect, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear, controlled, and fluent</li> <li>- Effective variety in sentence type, length, and structure</li> <li>- Effective subordination and co-ordination</li> <li>- Appropriate, lively, and wide-ranging word choice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- May have a few minor errors, but no major errors</li> <li>- Sentence fragments, if present are used deliberately for effect and emphasis</li> <li>- Bibliography, references and citations follow MLA standards with minimal mistakes</li> </ul>
<b>5 STRONG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear central idea</li> <li>- Persuasive argument</li> <li>- Adequate knowledge but little originality</li> <li>- Appropriate details</li> <li>- Well researched topic but could do with more variety in sources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear introduction, body, and conclusion</li> <li>- Unified, well-developed paragraphs</li> <li>- Effective paragraph transitions; sentence transitions sometimes conventional</li> <li>- Specific plan followed consistently</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear and reasonably fluent, but careful</li> <li>- Appropriate sentence variety</li> <li>- Satisfactory subordination and coordination</li> <li>- Appropriate, clear, and correct word choice with occasional slang</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A few minor errors and one or two major errors which do not reduce the clarity of communication</li> <li>- Use of references and citations are consistent, with some frequent minor errors in formatting (punctuation or word order)</li> </ul>
<b>4 PROFICIENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sufficiently limited central idea</li> <li>- Adequate knowledge; ideas may be conventional</li> <li>- Adequate details that may be repetitious</li> <li>- Adequately researched topic with some connections to primary sources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear introduction, body, and conclusion</li> <li>- Adequate paragraphs</li> <li>- Mechanical or abrupt transitions</li> <li>- Specific plan; emphasis sometimes misplaced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear but functional</li> <li>- Some sentence variety</li> <li>- Subordination and co-ordination usually correct</li> <li>- Appropriate, clear, and correct word choice with occasional slang</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minor errors and a few major errors which sometimes impede communication</li> <li>- References and citations are used with frequent major errors in formatting (missing information)</li> </ul>

	<b>Content</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Expression</b>	<b>Mechanics</b>
<b>3 DEVELOPING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apparent central idea but not sufficiently limited</li> <li>- Writer demonstrates some knowledge; ideas are mainly obvious</li> <li>- Insufficient or unclear details</li> <li>- Limited research of the topic with weak connections to primary sources</li> <li>- Sources are not reputable (discernable bias or a lack of credibility)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identifiable introduction, body, and conclusion</li> <li>- Most paragraphs adequately developed</li> <li>- Transitions may be weak or ill-chosen</li> <li>- Plan of development apparent but there may be misplaced emphasis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Usually clear, but functional and occasionally awkward</li> <li>- Little sentence variety</li> <li>- Overuse of co-ordination</li> <li>- Limited and sometimes inaccurate word choice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Several minor and major errors which result in clumsy writing</li> <li>- Inconsistent or regularly incorrect referencing and citations standards</li> </ul>
<b>2 EMERGING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Central idea not clear and topic not limited</li> <li>- Limited ideas; trite ideas</li> <li>- Insufficient, inappropriate, or illogical details</li> <li>- Little to no research of topic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No clear introduction or conclusion</li> <li>- Paragraphs are not sufficiently unified or developed</li> <li>- Transitions are poor and inappropriate</li> <li>- Confused order of development and misplaced emphasis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Frequently awkward</li> <li>- Almost no sentence variety</li> <li>- Excessive use of co-ordination</li> <li>- Restricted vocabulary (frequently inaccurate); dependence on slang</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Frequent minor and major errors which seriously impede communication</li> <li>- Minimal or incorrect use of references and citations undermines the authority of editorial</li> </ul>
<b>1 BEGINNING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No central idea; topic not limited</li> <li>- Trite and juvenile ideas</li> <li>- Details are absent or irrelevant</li> <li>- No research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No discernable plan of development</li> <li>- Transitions are absent</li> <li>- Incoherent, rambling, and unnecessarily repetitious</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unclear and uncontrolled</li> <li>- No sense of sentence structure</li> <li>- Limited and uncontrolled vocabulary; incorrect use of words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An abundance of minor and major errors which destroy all sense of communication</li> <li>- No attempt at referencing or citations in accordance with MLA style is made</li> </ul>